



**October 23, 2006 Board Meeting
Meeting Notes**

In Attendance:

Ellen Fineberg
M.L. Geffert
Russell Grazier, Chair
George Friese
Chris Greiner
Marge Hubbard
Jane James
Leanne Spees
Deb Thompson

Absent:

Jennifer Murphy
Tom Holbrook
Blair Hundertmark
Mimi White

Also:

Sue Cobler

Russ Grazier began the meeting at 7:04pm.

1. Review of Minutes

A motion was made by Marge Hubbard, with a second by Jane James to approve the September 25th minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Leanne Spees reported that she was working with an accountant to complete the 990 with the hope of completing it by the November 15th deadline. The executive committee will review the completed 990 form at their November 14th meeting. If any changes need to be made, an extension will be filed on November 15th.

3. President's Report



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Russ Grazier reported that board packets consisting of minutes, committee notes, agenda, and any other relevant board materials, will be sent out one week before each board meeting via email unless otherwise specified.

Russ thanked Jane James for both her service this past year as board chair and for her assistance as he made the transition to chair.

Russ reported that the agreement between Art-Speak and the city has been renewed and is now up to date through June 30, 2007. Jane presented the Art-Speak annual report to the city council and to the EDC. The EDC expressed interest in pursuing the Islington Street corridor study. Sue will assist them in making sure that the NEA grant funds are utilized appropriately.

Russ also attended a Planning Board work session on proposed changes to the Islington Street corridor.

The West End business association will be meeting tomorrow evening. Jane James will attend. Rick Taintor of Taintor & Associates (consultant for the city) will speak at that meeting.

Russ encouraged everyone to sign up for additional events for the Americans for the Arts survey.

Russ discussed the matching grant opportunity from the GPCF. Art-Speak was offered a 10K matching grant for operating expenses (not necessarily for Overnight Art as originally thought). Maryellen Burke from the GPCF would like to see a plan from Art-Speak on how we will use funds and how we will move towards relying less on GPCF for our operating expenses. Russ reported that he met with George, Jane and Sue to discuss funding strategies.

A report of Russ' conversation with the GPCF to the executive committee led to their suggestion that the board create a three year strategic plan. The proposed meeting to begin this strategic plan will be held at City Hall on Monday, November 6 from 6-9pm with dinner donated. The entire board is strongly encouraged to attend.

Russ also expressed concern about the size of the board, and would like to see the board expand to 17-18 members. Currently, the board is required to be a minimum of 15 members. Concerns were raised about a board of that size.

Jane James made the motion with a second by ML Geffert to discuss the possibility of adding members to the board. Discussion followed about specific



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ideas about possible board members and what our bylaws state about what percentage of the board must live in Portsmouth. Jane James amended her motion with a second by ML Geffert, to state that the board delegate to a committee, composed of ML Geffert, Jane James and Russ Grazier, the task of soliciting new members, and returning to the board (at the next regular meeting) a list of nominees for board positions. The board will vote on that based in part on its strategic planning. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Coordinator's Report

Sue Cobler discussed the NEA and PSNH grants for the Islington Street corridor study. Nancy Carmer was asked to draft an RFP for that study at the last EDC meeting, which Sue attended. Sue is helping draft that RFP which will go to the EDC next Friday. The arts district study will be a component of the Islington Street corridor study. A portion of the total budget will be allocated to cover her coordination salary. Sue will review past minutes to determine the total amount that was pledged for the study from both grants.

Sue may ask for extension to the NEA (the grant expires in December of 2007).

Sue reported that she updated the website, which included eliminating out of date information and posting current press releases. The board was encouraged to offer any feedback with regard to these site updates.

Sue also reported that she met with the new artistic director of the Seacoast Repertory Theater, along with John Bohenko. The SRT board is looking at potential future locations and would like to be considered for a city space, specifically, the lower level of the new McIntyre building when it is completed. The SRT envisions a collaborative public performance space, which they would share with other arts organizations.

5. SPAN/SFA-Net

Russ requested that a motion be made to remove the SPAN/SFA-Net from website for lack of use. Chris Greiner made the motion, with a second by Jane James. After some discussion, it was determined that a follow-up report should be made to the GPCF. Chris Greiner amended his motion to include that a report be made to the GPCF on how the grant money was used and why the project would be eliminated. Jane seconded the amended motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Americans for the Arts Survey Update



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Beth Shephard-Rabadam will provide a status report at the next board meeting, at which point she will have organizational feedback from Americans for the Arts. Beth will review this information with Sue and then report to the board.

7. Task Force Reports

a. American's for the Arts Survey

- i. Chris Greiner reported that he had trouble connecting with members of the task force, so a meeting has not yet occurred.

b. Public Art Ordinance Implementation Plan

- i. Jane James reported that Jeff Hyland joined this task force.
- ii. Jane suggested that the board consider having a board member on the McIntyre building reuse committee and the board have a loosely configured group that is monitoring what is in the pipeline for city building reuse.
- iii. Jane will contact Judy Rigmont and will get feedback from the state level on how the percent for art program works on the state level and how this might inform our actions at the city level.

c. Live/Work Zoning Ordinances

- i. Jane James reported that she will call Cindy Hayden and ask for a meeting with Rick Taintor in order to get overall information on the status of this ordinance.

d. Overnight-Art

- i. Ellen Fineberg reported that this task force would like to work with Jennifer Murphy to convene a seminar for artists on how to create public art.
- ii. ML Geffert will survey all past Overnight Art participants for feedback on their previous experience.
- iii. Ellen Fineberg suggested that possible suggestions for funding included looking to one lead sponsor for the entire Overnight Art event, or seeking sponsors for each Overnight Art piece. No conclusions had been reached. The task force will continue to research this issue, look at the previous budget, and look into possible Overnight Art sites. The goal will be to issue a call to artists in January and install the pieces by May, 2007.

8. Old Business

No old business.

9. New Business

Jane mentioned that there will be a reception to celebrate the opening of Creek Farm on November 11th. She suggested that our next meeting be held at Creek Farm.



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10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Meeting notes taken by Deb Thompson, *Secretary*



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Art-Speak, City Cultural Commission Board of Directors (alpha order)

Ellen Fineberg, *Vice Chair*
George Friese
M.L. Geffert
Russell Grazier, *Chair*
Christopher Greiner
Tom Holbrook
Marge Hubbard
Blair Hundertmark
Jane James
Jennifer Murphy
Deb Thompson, *Secretary*
Leanne Spees, *Treasurer*
Mimi White
Nancy Carmer, *Ex Officio*
John Bohenko, *Ex Officio*